

These facts demonstrate that Medicaid is a significant health safety net program for women. The proposed Republican budget cuts billions from Medicaid. I urge my colleagues to reject the Medicaid budget cuts and to provide full funding for women and their children and for the vital safety of children.

□ 1015

SLOGANS, NOT SOLUTIONS, FROM DEMOCRATS

(Mr. PRICE of Georgia asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. PRICE of Georgia. Madam Speaker, we are at a financial crossroads. My Republican colleagues and I are committed to fiscal responsibility, while Democrats merely propose slogans and catch phrases to hide behind their tax-and-spend policies.

Over the past 3 years, Democrats have offered amendments totaling tens of billions of dollars of additional spending and \$392 billion in additional taxes. That is more taxes.

A lot of these proposed spending increases were to be financed by raising taxes on small businesses, which means fewer jobs. Earlier this year not a single Democrat House Member supported the lean budget that passed Congress, not one.

Before Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, our economy was surging, and deficits were shrinking. Fact: The budget deficit shrank last year from \$412 billion to \$319 billion, a decrease of nearly 25 percent. We had 25 straight months of job growth, falling unemployment, and strong growth in the economy.

Madam Speaker, Americans deserve and expect us to work together. I urge my Democrat colleagues to move from slogans to solutions. We would welcome their productive contributions. The American people are waiting.

ADMINISTRATION OFFICIALS WORK TO UNDERMINE SPECIAL PROSECUTOR'S INVESTIGATION

(Mr. FILNER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. FILNER. Madam Speaker, it is clear that high-ranking officials in the Bush White House have not leveled with the American people about their involvement in the leaking of CIA agent Valerie Plame's identity to reporters.

When this investigation first began 2 years ago, Deputy Chief of Staff Karl Rove told ABC News that he was not involved in any way. After a steady stream of questions, White House press secretary Scott McClellan said he personally went and asked Karl Rove and Scooter Libby if they were involved, and they both assured him that they were not. McClellan told reporters at the White House press briefing on October 7, "They are good individuals.

They're important members of our White House team, and that's why I spoke with them, so I could come back to you and say that they were not involved."

Well, like much of what the White House says today, that is simply not true. Both Rove and Libby were involved in the leaking of a covert agent's identity. That means someone in this administration has a lot of explaining to do.

Madam Speaker, this is not the way the American people want their government to be run. It is time for someone to be held accountable at the White House for this outrageous abuse of power. This administration of necons turns out to be an administration of just plain cons.

REPUBLICANS CALL FOR FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY

(Mr. WILSON of South Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, Hurricanes Katrina and Rita delivered disastrous blows to families and communities in the southern part of our country.

As the Federal Government fulfills its commitment on the gulf coast, Congress must make significant sacrifices in other parts of the Federal budget. House Republicans are proposing several commonsense reforms that will decrease the deficit and the size of the Federal Government.

Instead of considering our positive proposals, House Democrats continue to rely upon their tired tax-and-spend plans that ultimately force future generations to pay higher taxes. They have tried to increase Federal spending by billions of dollars at every stage of the legislative process. Earlier this year not a single Democratic House Member supported the lean budget that passed the Congress.

As our Nation continues to recover from these hurricanes, it is time for Democrats to work with Republicans on fresh reforms that will decrease the Federal deficit, strengthen the Federal Government, and help American families.

In conclusion, God bless our troops, and we will never forget September 11.

FIRE ACT GRANTS

(Mrs. MALONEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. MALONEY. Madam Speaker, we as a Nation can do much better in protecting the American people with our limited homeland security dollars.

Recently I released a report on the status of the FIRE Act program, the only homeland security program specifically for firefighters, and we know it was the firefighters on 9/11 who were the true heroes and heroines. The statistics in this report, which can be

found on my Web site, would be absolutely laughable if the threats to New York City and other areas in America were not so serious.

In 2004, the FIRE Act program was capped at \$750,000 regardless of threat and size; yet we know that the 9/11 Commission report says that all of our homeland dollars should be targeted specifically and only for high threat and risk. In this report, as the Members can see, Montana gets over \$7.84 per person, while high-threat, number one threat city, New York City gets a mere 12 cents per person.

This is unfair. This is wrong. We can do better.

BREAST CANCER

(Mrs. MYRICK asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. MYRICK. October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month, and as a breast cancer survivor, I am very encouraged by all the research that goes on and continues to find, hopefully, a cure one day.

But I want to encourage everybody to be vigilant because this is a disease that each one of us has to take care of our own bodies to find. I am one of those that was seen by five doctors, and I had three mammograms, and everyone told me I was fine and there was nothing wrong. But I knew something was wrong because I had pain. So I persevered, was able to get an ultrasound, and they found it.

So my message today is preventive medicine is so important, but it is especially important for each one of us as individuals to take care of ourselves. And I encourage everyone during this month, to men and women alike, because men get breast cancer, too, to get mammograms; if they know something is wrong to persevere until they find the answers. And one of these days we will not have to stand here because we will have a cure for this bad disease.

CRONYISM IN THE BUSH ADMINISTRATION: APPOINTMENTS BASED ON CONNECTIONS, NOT CREDENTIALS

(Ms. BERKLEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. BERKLEY. Madam Speaker, the Bush administration has systematically abused its power by appointing political allies rather than qualified people to positions that have a direct effect on the safety and well-being of the American people.

This dangerous practice became painfully evident in the devastating aftermath of Hurricane Katrina when the incompetence and inexperience of FEMA Director Michael Brown led to a terribly inadequate response to natural disaster. We now know that President Bush appointed Brown as a favor to a friend, not on his ability to do the job.